□ Liberalisation of FDI, with a number of sectors being put on automatic route.

□ Replacement of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) by Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)

Decline in industrial production

15. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production in industries has declined during the first half of 2000-2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the qualities of growth have deteriorated despite the improvement in production figures during the second half; and

(c) the details of the quarterly figures, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) During first half of 2000-2001 (April-September) a cumulative growth rate of 5.7% was registered which is lower than the growth of 6.3% for corresponding period of 1999-2000;

(b) The data on quality of growth is not available, however the growth rates for first nine months of the current and previous fiscal year are given below:

Period	Growth rates* (2000-2001)	Growth rates* (1999-2000)
April-September	5.7	6.3
October-December	5.6	6.7

*Percentage change over the corresponding period of previous year.

(c) The details of quarterly figures (growth rates*), sector-wise during 2000-01 arc given below:

Quarter	Mi ining	Manu-facturing	Electri-city	Overall
April-June 2000	3.7	6.5	5.1	6.1
July-September 2000	3.8	5.9	1.9	5.3
October-December 2000	4.9	5.5	7.5	5.6

* Percentage change over the corresponding period of previous year.

Creation of artificial demand for cement

16. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five cement companies *viz.,* Gujarat Ambuja, L&T, ACC, Grasim and India Cements which control more than 50% of the Cement market decided to cut back their production to create artificial demand and hike prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The cement production has fallen in the months of December, 2000 and January, 2001 compared to production in the corresponding months of December, 1999 and January, 2000. A statement is enclosed *(See* below).

The production of individual cement plants is not maintained Centrally in the Ministry.

Government is seized of the situation and the situation is being monitored.